

chart that talks about the amount of money that can be saved if we fiscally restrain spending.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I would just point out a couple of charts, because there is going to be, I suspect, a rather heated debate tomorrow and for the next several weeks about who is doing a better job of saving Medicare and Social Security.

I think the numbers do speak for themselves. This is a chart, and again, these are not our numbers. These numbers actually are generated by the Congressional Budget Office. But it shows that over the next 10 years we are going to save \$1.8 trillion for Medicare. The Clinton plan, which is rather complicated and difficult to explain, will save about \$1.65 trillion over that period. There is a big difference.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, the difference is \$150 billion.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Exactly. Mr. Speaker, that is a lot of money even around here.

Mr. COBURN. Right.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, let me point out, though, what some of the Congressional Budget Office people and what the Office of Management and Budget also said. They did not actually use the term "irresponsible". I want to show this article which appeared in the Washington Post last week, and they were both very, very critical of the Clinton plan. Basically, they described it as sort of a smoke and mirrors type plan.

Frankly, even the chairman and many of the Democrats who either served on or were very involved in the Medicare Commission essentially came to the same conclusion, that what the President was really proposing was nothing. He was proposing taking more general fund revenues to try and supplement Medicare, when really what we need with Medicare is not necessarily just more money. We need real reforms. We need to get under the hood, as Ross Perot used to say, and really fix this thing.

By doing what the President was doing, it was called irresponsible because it really, in some respects, only makes the problem worse over the long-term.

So I think we are going to have a good and healthy and heated debate about Medicare, but it is important to see what some experts have said. It is not just us. As I say, it is the Congressional Budget Office. It is OMB. It is columnist David Broder.

He wrote a column last week. It appeared in Sunday's Washington Post. The headline was "Medicare: Another Clinton failure?"

As we look through his plan, and it is described in detail here, and if people would like a copy, we can certainly make certain they can get a copy of it, but there have been many people who have studied the Clinton plan and they say this is a joke, and unfortunately it is kind of a sad joke for American seniors.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, one of the things I do with my seniors who are on Medicare, I have actually asked them this at home when the President started talking about a drug benefit, we are talking about here we go again, politicians adding a benefit to a program that we cannot afford now. When we ask the seniors, "Do you want to increase the benefits associated with Medicare, and the way we are going to pay it is we are taking it away from your grandchildren," they uniformly say no.

But they also will say, "If you will spend wiser in Washington, maybe you can do more for me, because I am struggling." But they do not want their children and their grandchildren to have to pay for it.

So I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) for being here tonight. My purpose is not partisanship. My purpose is to make sure the American public knows that there are some of us here that are going to honestly talk about what the numbers are, honestly talk about being critical of both Republicans and Democrats in the past in terms of the mistakes that have been made that have been politically expedient.

I want to close this tonight with a statement that Martin Luther King said in his last speech in the Washington Cathedral not long before he was assassinated. What he said was is that "Vanity asked the question, is it popular? And cowardice asked the question, is it expedient? But conscience asked the question, is it right?"

The gentleman related to something, right versus wrong. For too long Washington has been asking the wrong question. What they have been saying is, is it popular, and is it expedient for my political career, versus is it right for our country, right for the future generation and the following?

I hope the Congress will have the courage to do what is right rather than what is expedient and what is popular. That is what we are sent up here to do.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN OF COLOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for organizing the special order that was supposed to be on women's history, although it had been altered.

I would just like to offer my remarks for this evening. Let me also add that the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) has certainly put her stamp on history through her outstanding work here in the House of Representatives and being the first African American woman to be elected to her district.

It is fitting indeed that we honor the achievements of women of color, who for too long were neglected in our Nation's history. In recent years, it has been exciting to watch school children learn about African American women of strength, courage, and dignity who shaped the course of history.

We can point with pride to women like Harriet Tubman who secretly guided over 300 slaves to freedom on the "Underground Railroad." She spent time working in my home State of New Jersey at Cape May between 1849 and 1852.

We honor the legacy of Sojourner Truth, who was freed from slavery by the New York State Emancipation Act of 1827, became famous in her lifetime as a preacher and abolitionist and lecturer. When war broke out, she raised money to buy gifts for the soldiers and went into Army camps and distributed them by herself.

We recall the contributions of Mary McLeod Bethune, who built Bethune-Cookman College in Florida and founded the National Council of Negro Women. She was the first black woman to receive a major appointment in the Federal Government.

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She served as an adviser to President Franklin Roosevelt and to President Truman.

There have been so many remarkable women of color that it is impossible to pay tribute to all of them tonight. We have all had the opportunity to meet women who were personal heroines in our own lives, and I would like to pay tribute to three women who have had the greatest impact on my early life, African American women who have made a direct contribution to my growth and development. And these three women, other than my late mother and grandmother, have had a tremendous impact on my development.

The first one I would like to mention is Mrs. Madeline Williams, who was an adviser of the NAACP Youth Councils and College Chapter of the Oranges and Maplewood in New Jersey. When I was invited to join the NAACP as a college student she provided the opportunity for young people to become involved in civic activities and public service. She helped me develop an interest in civil rights at a time in history when we were all moved to become involved. I remain grateful to her for giving me the opportunity to become involved in civil rights and government affairs.

Another great woman who exerted an enormous positive influence on my life was Mrs. Mary Burch, founder of a group called The Leaguers, which helped young people from the inner city to become more involved in their activities in their cities.

Belonging to the Leaguers opened up a whole new world for young people like myself, a world from which we otherwise would have been excluded. Never before had we been able to have

the opportunity to wear formal attire when I was a young boy; to learn the waltz and to attend cotillion dances in a ballroom. It was an uplifting experience which taught us about social graces and made us feel special.

The Leaguers sponsored many innovative programs. I recall as a teenager my excitement over my first real trip as a high school student away from home, to visit Philadelphia, through a Leaguer exchange program. Later, the student I visited, Joe Wade, stayed at my home in Newark. Forging friendships and relationships with young people from different cities was exciting, it was novel, and it was a great experience. This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Leaguers.

Finally, let me just mention another exceptional woman from New Jersey whom I was pleased to join at a celebration recently at her hundredth birthday at the YWCA in Montclair last week, and that is Mrs. Hortense Tate. Her career spanned seven decades of service through education as a teacher and guidance counselor, the enrichment and development of young women through the Montclair YWCA and the AKA sorority, and over 70 years of service to her church.

When I was a young teacher at Robert Treat School in 1957, Mrs. Tate guided me and inspired me. She comes from an outstanding family; her father worked his way up from a blue collar job to become a principal of an African American school in Topeka, Kansas. As we all know, the 1954 Supreme Court case was based on the Topeka Board of Education that said separate but equal is unconstitutional. He was acquainted with Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver.

Mrs. Tate entertained Mary McLeod Bethune and Dorothy Height. Her son, Herb Tate, was a distinguished foreign diplomat, and her grandson, Herbert H. Tate, Junior, is President of the State of New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring these women of achievement who have, as the theme of this Women's History Month goes, "put their stamp on America." I am so pleased to have the chance to express my personal gratitude and admiration for women who have meant so much to me throughout my life. I would not be here if it were not for the faith, confidence and direction that these persons have had on my life.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for Wednesday, March 24th, on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legis-

lative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. OLVER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JEFFERSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes each day, today and on March 25.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGLISH, for 5 minutes, on March 25.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, on March 25.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM, for 5 minutes, on March 25.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 437. An act to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 333 Las Vegas Boulevard South in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the "Lloyd D. George United States Courthouse" to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 460. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 401 South Michigan Street in South Bend, Indiana, as the "Robert K. Rodibaugh United States Bankruptcy Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 25, 1999, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1246. A letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Recourse Loan Regulations for Mohair (RIN: 0560-AF63) received March 16, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1247. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of

Education, transmitting Final regulations—Graduate Assistance in the Areas of National Need, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1248. A letter from the Secretary of Education, transmitting Final Regulations—Assistance to States for the Education of children with Disabilities and the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1249. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Demonstration Projects to Ensure Students with Disabilities Receive a Quality Higher Education. Notice of final priorities and invitation for applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 1999—received March 16, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1250. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the 1998 annual report on the Loan Repayment Program for Research Generally, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2541-1(i); to the Committee on Commerce.

1251. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Criteria and Procedures for DOE Contractor Employee Protection Program; Department of Energy Acquisition Regulations (RIN: 1901-AA78) received March 23, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

1252. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Acquisition Regulation; Department of Energy Management and Operating Contracts and Other Designated Contracts; Final Rule—received March 16, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

1253. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Augusta, Wisconsin) [MM Docket No. 98-234, RM-9324] received March 23, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

1254. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Knox City, Texas) [MM Docket No. 98-236, RM-9344] received March 23, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

1255. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Pauls Valley and Healdton, Oklahoma and Krum, Texas) [MM Docket No. 98-50; RM-9247] Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Healdton, Oklahoma) [MM Docket No. 98-75; RM-9264] received March 23, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

1256. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Manhattan, Montana) [MM Docket No. 98-233 RM-9316] received March 23, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.